

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 01702

STATE FOR NIMETZ AND EUR/RPM

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, MPOL, GR, TU
SUBJECT: GREECE-NATO DISCUSSIONS; TURKS APPROVE OEG
DECISIONS LEADING TO DISCUSSIONS WITH GREEKS

REF: (A) USNATO 1357 (DTG 091831Z FEB 78), (B) STATE42503
NOTAL (DTG 171644Z FEB 78), (C) USNATO 1188
(DTG 061740 FEB 78)

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL A, OPEN ENDED GROUP (OEG) ON
GREECE-NATO DISCUSSIONS IN ITS FEB 8 MEETING INTER ALIA
AGREED THAT SACEUR SHOULD BE ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY
FOR CONDUCTING EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS ON MILITARY/
TECHNICAL LEVEL ISSUES WITH THE GREEKS AND AUTHORIZED
D/SYG PANSO TO PASS OEG-PREPARED INVENTORY OF ISSUES TO
GREEK AMBASSADOR. THESE DECISIONS WERE AD REFERENDUM
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TO ANKARA.

2. TURKISH DELEGATION HAS NOW CIRCULATED A LETTER
CONVEYING ANKARA'S APPROVAL OF THE DECISIONS. THE
APPROVAL IS SUBJECT TO TWO "UNDERSTANDINGS":

(A) THE EXCLUSION OF ITEM NUMBER (16) "MILITARY BUDGET"

FROM THE MILITARY COMMITTEE LIST OF QUESTIONS AS CONTAINED IN MCM-3-78 (REF C) DOES NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDRESSING QUESTIONS TO GREECE UNDER THIS TOPIC WERE IT TO PROVE NECESSARY AT ANY STAGE DURING THE MILITARY/TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GREECE;

(B) THE LIST OF QUESTIONS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED TO BE EXHAUSTIVE AND THAT THE ADDITION OF FURTHER QUESTIONS TO THIS LIST REMAINS POSSIBLE DEPENDING ON THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS.

3. CONDITION (B) POSES NO PROBLEM SINCE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE LIST OF QUESTIONS WAS NEVER CONSIDERED TO EXCLUDE POSSIBLE ADDITIONS. UNDERSTANDING (A) IS SOMEWHAT MORE TROUBLING SINCE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OEG ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PURSUING THE QUESTION OF MILITARY BUDGET FUNDING OF NADGE/NADEES STATIONS IN GREECE IN THIS FASHION. NONETHELESS, WERE THE TURKS TO PROPOSE SUCH A STEP, THE "UNDERSTANDING" WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE OEG FIRST. ACCORDINGLY, NEITHER OF THE TURKISH CONDITIONS ARE UNACCEPTABLE ONES.

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF THAT PANSA IS TAKING STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE SCENARIO DESCRIBED REF A. HE WILL PRESENT THE OEG INVENTORY OF ISSUES TO THE GREEK PERMREP. ASSUMING THERE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREEMENT (AND THIS SHOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM GIVEN GREECE'S OFT-REPEATED DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY WITH GREECE-NATO DISCUSSIONS), PANSA WILL THEN CONVEY THE RESULTS OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE GREEK PERMREP TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WHICH WILL IN TURN FORMALLY NOTIFY SACEUR THAT HIS MANDATE TO CONDUCT EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GREEKS ON MILITARY/TECHNICAL LEVEL ISSUES MAY COMMENCE.

5. COMMENT:

(A) WE BELIEVE THAT THE SCENARIO AS DESCRIBED ABOVE AND IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES COVERS THE POINTS RAISED IN PARA 6, REF B. SACEUR WILL RECEIVE A FORMAL DIRECT MANDATE TO CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS ON MILITARY/TECHNICAL ISSUES FROM PANSA AND THE OEG. WE SEE NO PARTICULAR NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL MANDATE FROM LUNS AND PERMREPS BUT CAN PURSUE IT IF WASHINGTON DESIRES.

(B) WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THIS GENERAL TOPIC WITH NIMETZ PARTY PER REF B. WE NOTE THAT THE SCENARIO ENVISIONED IN REF B IS GREATLY DEPENDENT ON TURKISH

FORBEARANCE, A QUALITY THEY HAVE NOT DEMONSTRATED OVER
THE PAST YEAR. WE ASSUME DISCUSSION IN ANKARA BY
WASHINGTON PARTY WILL HELP IN THIS REGARD.GLITMAN

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